

**Will Randall,
Georgia Tech, IAC Alumni**

“The practical experience that the IAC gave me is beyond compare. The problem solving skills I developed while in the program have served me through law school and beyond.”

IAC Roots

When Will Randall entered Georgia Tech, he had never really considered energy efficiency. During the fall of 2001, he had been working as a co-op student for a German equipment manufacturing company. Soon after the September 11th tragedy, the company closed their U.S. operations, and Will found himself out of a job. That is when an advertisement for the Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) program at Georgia Tech seeking undergraduate students caught his attention.

It was the first plant visit that Will participated in that sold him on the IAC. He recalls that it was a steel mill in Tennessee. During this assessment, he had the opportunity to talk to the various people involved in the plant from both the technical side as well as management side. He was impressed to see that all sides, from the plant managers to the safety personnel and technical staff were talking about the myriad of issues they faced and how to deal with them. Will recalls “the level and focus was so much more than ‘turn off the lights’”.

They were discussing everything from how state and federal energy laws affect the price of electricity and natural gas to how environmental laws affect their businesses. Will recalls how this really opened his eyes to thinking about how all of these issues are intertwined and that everyone involved considers these issues in their decision making. That realization of the vast interconnection between all stakeholders was a huge inspiration for Will. From that moment on,



Courtesy of Will Randall

Will Randall, IAC Lead Student Alumnus, Georgia Tech University, preparing for court.

he was committed to the IAC and turned his career toward efficiency and conservation. Will credits the IAC with raising his interest in energy efficiency, noting that he hadn't really contemplated it before he joined the program. Will's interests are more focused on the big pictures of efficiency than on individual assessment recommendations or how to save energy in a particular system or plant. It was that big picture focus on energy efficiency as a greater good for the world that Will developed in the IAC that drove him to law school and to focus on environmental and energy issues.

Will acknowledges that he gained a tremendous amount of practical experience from the IAC. The problem solving skills he developed in the program helped with his future work in law school and beyond. Will explains that the ability to go into a manufacturing facility with the goal of discovering and solving problems, while knowing very little about the plant on arrival, is something he learned to do in the IAC. These problem solving skills are put to use every day in his career. Will finds that in his current position, when a client presents a

“Will has, without a doubt, been instrumental in making our program work. His responsibilities have grown to the point where he is even assisting in managing the work load assignment. Will has assisted with a FEMP assessment, helped write unique ARs, assisted with programmatic reporting needs, and has helped train other students.”

-Bill Meffert, Georgia Tech IAC Director

problem or issue, it is the confidence and mode of thinking that he developed through his IAC experience that helps him develop a viable solution.

Will also credits the IAC with helping to teach him how to conduct himself in a professional environment, and giving him a better knowledge base than other engineers. The ability to enter an unfamiliar situation and speak with people about situations and information that you are still processing is another skill that Will developed in the IAC. All of those skills and lessons have come into play to positively affect his current career.

Career Highlights

After graduating from Georgia Tech, Will entered law school at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. During his last year of law school, Will was invited to study at the University of Ottawa, Canada through a grant he received from the Canada-United States Law Institute. He arrived in Canada in 2007 and immediately found himself comfortable there. He liked the area as well as the study of Canadian law. After completing his law degree, Will realized he wanted to stay in Canada, so he applied to the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada where they offer a specialty Master’s of Law in Energy and Environmental Law. Will began that Master’s Degree program in 2008, and at the same time went to work for a Land Owners Rights organization representing land owners who are affected by energy development in Western Canada.

During this time, Will was licensed to practice law in the United States, but he was not yet certified as a lawyer in Canada. In 2009, Will began taking the required law exams and began his articling year (working under a senior lawyer) that would allow him to practice law in Canada.

He then moved to Edmonton and worked at a firm representing Aborigines on environmental and land rights issues including oil and gas laws as well as pipeline issues.

Will also spent a bit of time working on the industrial side of energy issues with a firm that represented the property and environmental matters of oil companies.



Will Randall at a hydroelectric project near Whistler, British Columbia

Courtesy of Will Randall

Though he notes that it was a great experience, he quickly determined that this was not the path he wished to follow.

Recently, Will joined the Government of Alberta where he works in the Environmental Law section of the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General. He is a part of a team of fifteen lawyers in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. In the United States this could be compared to working for a State Department of Natural Resources or the US EPA.

In this role, he enforces environmental law. If someone is found in violation of the law, polluting a pond or diverting a water way without ministry permission for example, Will would give the enforcement order and go through the appeals process to resolve the situation. Another aspect of his position, and one that he enjoys greatly, is his work on the policy side. Will helps to create environmental policy in the country. Some of the policies he is currently working on address water use and allocation. He is also working on a provincial wide planning program to develop a land use framework to guide the future planning and development of the land throughout the province.

Focus on the Future

Will plans to stay in his current line of work for the foreseeable future. He does plan to focus on the policy side, and looks to be involved in shaping future environmental and energy policy in Western Canada.

A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America

Energy efficiency and renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America. Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies. The Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO) within EERE is the lead government program working to increase the energy efficiency of the U.S. Industrial Sector.

ABOUT THE IAC PROGRAM:

A program area of AMO, the Industrial Assessment Centers (IACs) provide eligible small- and medium-sized manufacturers with no-cost energy assessments. Additionally, the IACs serve as a training ground for the next-generation of energy savvy engineers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

EERE website: www.eere.energy.gov

AMO website:
www.eere.energy.gov/industry/

IAC student forum website:
www.iacforum.org